

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

CLAIMS LISTING

1. (Currently amended) A paddle comprising:
a shaft having a diameter and at least one recessed portion located on said shaft, said at least one recessed portion being a lesser diameter than said shaft diameter thereby creating at least one transverse ridge at the junction of said shaft diameter and said at least one recessed portion;
a blade; and
a grip for interlocking in said at least one recessed portion of said shaft,
wherein the blade includes (1) a skeleton having at least one rib that extends distally from the longitudinal centerline of said skeleton towards the outer periphery of said blade to reinforce the blade both longitudinally and laterally and (2) an outer surface integrally formed over and enclosing said skeleton and said at least one rib,
wherein the skeleton and the outer surface are made of different and/or the same ~~injection~~ molded materials,
wherein the blade is attached to the shaft, and
wherein the shaft at least one recessed portion includes a surface profile, and the grip includes a complimentary surface profile to engage the surface profile of the shaft at least one recessed portion to removably interlock the grip to the shaft.
2. (Original) The paddle of claim 1, wherein the skeleton includes a plurality of ribs.
3. (Currently amended) The paddle of claim 2 1, wherein the at least one ribs has a ~~are~~ wing-shaped cross-section.
4. (Currently amended) The paddle of claim 2 1, wherein the ~~injection~~ molded material of the skeleton includes plastic.
5. (Currently amended) The paddle of claim 2 1, wherein the ~~injection~~ molded

material of the outer surface includes composite materials ~~polycarbonate~~.

6. (Original) The paddle of claim 1, wherein the shaft is shaped to provide an ergonomic placement and alignment of the grip for a hand of a paddler.

7. (Original) The paddle of claim 1, wherein the shaft is bent such that (1) a centerline of a first portion of the shaft is offset from a centerline of a second portion of the shaft by at least one of (i) more than 10 degrees and (ii) less than 17 degrees, and (2) a centerline of a third portion of the shaft bisect the center portion of the first portion of the shaft.

8. (Currently amended) The paddle of claim 7,
wherein the complimentary surface profile of the grip engages the surface profile of the ~~shaft~~ at least one recessed portion at the first portion of the shaft, and
wherein the blade is attached to the shaft at the third portion of the shaft.

9. (Original) The paddle of claim 1, wherein the shaft includes a molded composite.

10. (Currently amended) The paddle of claim 1, wherein the complimentary surface profile of the grip engages the surface profile of the ~~shaft~~ at least one recessed portion to also locate the grip, relative to the shaft, in a predetermined orientation and position.

11. (Currently amended) A system comprising:
a shaft having a diameter and at least one recessed portion located on said shaft, said at least one recessed portion being a lesser diameter than said shaft diameter thereby creating at least one transverse ridge at the junction of said shaft diameter and said at least one recessed portion; and

a handlebar grip for interlocking in said at least one recessed portion of said shaft,
wherein the ~~shaft~~ at least one recessed portion includes a surface profile, and the handlebar grip includes a complimentary surface profile to engage the surface profile of the ~~shaft~~ at least one recessed portion to removably interlock the handlebar grip to the ~~shaft~~ at least one recessed portion in a predetermined orientation and position, said at least one transverse ridge and said surface profiles interlocking longitudinally and laterally said

handlebar grip to said shaft.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the shaft is ergonomically shaped.
13. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the shaft is bent such that (1) a centerline of a first portion of the shaft is offset from a centerline of a second portion of the shaft by (i) about more than 10 degrees and (ii) about less than 17 degrees.
14. (Currently amended) The system of claim 13, wherein the complimentary surface profile of the grip engages the surface profile of the ~~shaft~~ at least one recessed portion at the first portion of the shaft.
15. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the shaft includes a molded composite.
16. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the shaft includes a bar and/or a pole.
17. (Currently amended) A system comprising:
 - a shaft having a diameter and at least one recessed portion located on said shaft, said at least one recessed portion being a lesser diameter than said shaft diameter thereby creating at least one transverse ridge at the junction of said shaft diameter and said at least one recessed portion; and
 - a handlebar grip for interlocking in said at least one recessed portion of said shaft,
 - wherein the ~~shaft~~ at least one recessed portion includes one of (i) a groove and (ii) a projection, and the handlebar grip includes the other one of (i) the groove and (ii) the projection to engage the one of (i) the groove and (ii) the projection of the ~~shaft~~ at least one recessed portion to secure the grip to the ~~shaft~~ at least one recessed portion.
18. (Currently amended) A paddle blade comprising:
 - a skeleton having at least one rib that extends distally from the longitudinal centerline of said skeleton towards the outer periphery of said paddle blade; and
 - an outer surface,

wherein the skeleton and said at least one rib reinforces the paddle blade longitudinally and/or laterally,

wherein the outer surface is secured to the skeleton and the at least one rib, and

wherein the skeleton and the outer surface are made of different ~~injection~~ molded materials.

19. (Original) The paddle blade of claim 18, wherein the skeleton includes a plurality of ribs.

20. (Currently amended) The paddle blade of claim 18, wherein the at least one ribs ~~are~~ has a wing-shaped cross-section.

21. (Currently amended) The paddle blade of claim 18, wherein the injection molded material of the skeleton is made from a material selected from the group consisting of plastic and composite materials.

22. (Currently amended) The paddle blade of claim 18, wherein the injection molded material of the outer surface includes a material selected from the group consisting of polycarbonate and composite materials.